

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

SF30, Page 1 of 4 Pages
OMB No. 0690-0008

1. CONTRACT ID CODE	
2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO. Amendment 0004	3. EFFECTIVE DATE
4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO. NRMAE000000020	5. PROJECT NO. (If applicable)
6. ISSUED BY CODE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/NOAA ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT DIVISION IT CONTRACTS BRANCH, OFA 611 1305 EAST WEST HIGHWAY, ROOM 7604 SILVER SPRING, MD 20910	7. ADMINISTERED BY CODE (If other than Item 6)
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR (No. Street, County, State and Zip Code) ALL OFFERORS Code: Facility Code:	[X] 9.A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO. 52-DDNR-0-90030 9.B. DATED (See Item 11) MARCH 28, 2000
	[] 10A. MOD OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO. 10B. DATED (See Item 13)

11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS

[X] The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers [] is extended, [X] is not extended. Offerors must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended by one of the following methods: (a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.

12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA (If required)

NOT APPLICABLE

13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS. IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.

- [] A. THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: (Specify authority) _____ THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.
- [] B. THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (such as changes in paying office, appropriation data.) SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).
- [] C. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:
- [] D. OTHER (Specify type of modification and authority)

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor [] is not, [] is required to sign this document and return ___ copies to the issuing office.

14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible).

1. This Amendment revises the Solicitation as follows:

SECTION E

The following is added to Section E:

“E.5 System Acceptance

The purpose of System Acceptance is to provide assurance to the Government that the equipment installed by the Contractor meets the performance guarantees specified in the Contract, and reasonably fulfills the Statement of Need as cited in the contract.

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. NAME AND TITLE OR SIGNER (Type or print)	16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print)
15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR _____	16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA _____
(Signature of person authorized to sign)	(Signature of contracting officer)
15C. DATE SIGNED	16C. DATE SIGNED

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The criteria for successfully completing the Acceptance Test are divided into three parts:

1. Operational inspection by the Government to guarantee proper functioning of all delivered equipment including environmental, electrical, mechanical, and cooling equipment.
2. Upon completion of the Operational Inspection, the Contractor has seven days to successfully run the benchmarks delivered with the RFP on the actual delivered system to demonstrate the performance guarantee.
3. Upon completion of running the benchmarks, the Contractor shall begin the thirty consecutive days of System Acceptance in accordance with E.2. During this period, operation will be consistent with how the system will run when it becomes operational.

Rules Governing System Acceptance:

1. The Government and the Contractor will each select on-site representatives who will comprise the acceptance team. The Government and the Contractor will each select one representative from the team to be their primary point of contact.
2. The Contractor shall provide written notification when System Acceptance shall begin.

Benchmark Performance Guarantee

After installation and inspection of the HPCS at GFDL is complete, the Contractor shall successfully run the LSC and AC throughput benchmarks and the HSMS archive benchmark concurrently to completion according to the benchmark instructions cited in Section J.3 and within the maximum time called for in the contract. Additionally, the Contractor shall successfully run the legacy archive benchmark to completion according to the benchmark instructions cited in Section J.3.5 and within the maximum time called for in the contract.

System Acceptance

1. The suite of applications run during System Acceptance will be consistent with how the system will run when it becomes operational. The test will exercise all the features of the systems hardware (including processors, memory, disk, communications, and I/O) and software (including scheduling, compilers, etc.).
2. The suite of applications run during System Acceptance will be determined from a staged plan developed by the Government to migrate users onto the system.
3. During System Acceptance, the Contractor may make changes to the system to optimize usage. These proposed changes must be accepted by the Government.” Page E-4 of the Solicitation should be removed and replaced with the enclosed Pages E-4 and E-4A.

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SECTION L

L.5.6 is changed to read as follows:

“LTDs will take place during a single visit to each Offeror in the Competitive Range. The Government will allocate an Offeror two consecutive days for the LTD. The LTD will begin at 9:00 AM and end no later than 5:00 PM local time on the first day, and begin at 9:00 AM local time and will terminate before 3:00 PM on the second day. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD during the two day period, the Government will not provide another opportunity to successfully complete the LTD. Failure to successfully complete the LTD may, but will not necessarily, result in disqualification of the Offeror from further consideration. Such failure may also result in downgrade of the Offeror 's proposal.” Page L-8 of the Solicitation should be removed and replaced with the enclosed Page L-8.

2. This Amendment also responds to vendor’s Questions 147, 157, and 159 through 165. These responses are included as Attachment A to this Amendment. NOTE: The questions and answers are also posted to the GFDL web site at: <http://www.gfdl.gov/hpcs>

If there are any disparity between the questions and answers on the web site and this Amendment, this Amendment shall prevail. Any additional questions received will be responded to in a subsequent Amendment.

E.3 DATE OF ACCEPTANCE

Charges shall commence on the first day of the successful performance period. The Government shall not accept equipment and shall not pay charges until the standard of performance is met.

Upon successful completion of the 30-day performance test period, the Government will provide the Contractor with written notice of acceptance, identifying the actual date of acceptance and retroactively establishing the first day of the successful 30-day performance period.

E.4 DELAY OF START OF PERFORMANCE PERIOD

If necessary, the Government may delay the start of the performance period, but such a delay shall not exceed 30 consecutive days. Should the Government delay the start of the performance period, rental or maintenance charges shall accrue for that period of time between the installation date and the start of the performance period and shall be paid upon completion of the successful performance period.

E.5 SYSTEM ACCEPTANCE

The purpose of System Acceptance is to provide assurance to the Government that the equipment installed by the Contractor meets the performance guarantees specified in the Contract, and reasonably fulfills the Statement of Need as cited in the contract.

The criteria for successfully completing the Acceptance Test are divided into three parts:

1. Operational inspection by the Government to guarantee proper functioning of all delivered equipment including environmental, electrical, mechanical, and cooling equipment.
2. Upon completion of the Operational Inspection, the Contractor has seven days to successfully run the benchmarks delivered with the RFP on the actual delivered system to demonstrate the performance guarantee.
3. Upon completion of running the benchmarks, the Contractor shall begin the thirty consecutive days of System Acceptance in accordance with E.2. During this period, operation will be consistent with how the system will run when it becomes operational.

Rules Governing System Acceptance:

1. The Government and the Contractor will each select on-site representatives who will comprise the acceptance team. The Government and the Contractor will each select one representative from the team to be their primary point of contact.
2. The Contractor shall provide written notification when System Acceptance shall begin.

Benchmark Performance Guarantee

After installation and inspection of the HPCS at GFDL is complete, the Contractor shall successfully run the LSC and AC throughput benchmarks and the HSMS archive benchmark concurrently to completion according to the benchmark instructions cited in Section J.3 and within the maximum time called for in the contract. Additionally, the Contractor shall successfully run the legacy archive benchmark to completion according to the benchmark instructions cited in Section J.3.5 and within the maximum time called for in the contract.

System Acceptance

1. The suite of applications run during System Acceptance will be consistent with how the system will run when it becomes operational. The test will exercise all the features of the systems hardware (including processors, memory, disk, communications, and I/O) and software (including scheduling, compilers, etc.).
2. The suite of applications run during System Acceptance will be determined from a staged plan developed by the Government to migrate users onto the system.
3. During System Acceptance, the Contractor may make changes to the system to optimize usage. These proposed changes must be accepted by the Government.

Additional information regarding the LTD may be found in section J.3, Benchmark Instructions.

LTDs will take place during a single visit to each Offeror in the Competitive Range. The Government will allocate an Offeror two consecutive days for the LTD. The LTD will begin at 9:00 AM and end no later than 5:00 PM local time on the first day, and begin at 9:00 AM local time and will terminate before 3:00 PM on the second day. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD during the two day period, the Government will not provide another opportunity to successfully complete the LTD. Failure to successfully complete the LTD may, but will not necessarily, result in disqualification of the Offeror from further consideration. Such failure may also result in downgrade of the Offeror's proposal.

L.6 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals shall be prepared and submitted as described below.

NOTE: The terms “statement of need”, “specification”, and “statement of work” used in this Section are synonymous.

L.6.1 TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

The technical proposal will be used to evaluate offerors' capabilities to provide and perform the requirements detailed in section C, the Statement of Need.

The technical proposal must be organized with sections tabbed as described below. For each tab, a numbered list of proposal instructions is given below. A specific response must be given to each numbered instruction. To keep each tab independently readable, responses of the form “Same as tab 6, instruction 7” or “Features same as LSC” are not permitted. The technical proposal must be prepared using the Helvetica-Oblique or italicized Helvetica font in 10 point size for all text portions. It must be formatted to print double-sided on 8.5” by 11” paper with 1” margins on all sides. Page numbers must be printed in the bottom margin, centered, in the format “tab - page”, where tab is the tab number, and page begins at 1 for each tab. The requested hardcopies must be spiral or “wiro” bound.

The technical proposal must use October 1, 2000, as the start of the HPCS system life. Upgrades must be specified as “month/year”, where month is 1 to 12, and year is 2000 or larger. The user

Q147 In Section J the instructions for tables A-3.2, A-3.3, and A-3.4 refer to evaluated residual value. Are bidders to determine this value? What is the effect of this factor in the price evaluation to be conducted by the Government?

A147 Residual value is only applicable to those acquisition methods that result in Government ownership of the equipment (i.e., purchase, lease-with-option-to-purchase, and lease-to-ownership-plan). If an Offeror proposes one of these methods of acquisition, the Offeror is to include in their pricing schedule, the value of the equipment at the end of the contract period (residual value). The residual value shall be computed based upon 20% of the purchase price of the equipment.

Q148-156 Responded to in previous Amendments.

Q157 Section B.2, Note A of the RFP, provides a Base Contract Period funding profile of 4 periods, FY2000 through FY2003, and an Option Contract Period of FY2004 through FY2006. This is a total of seven (7) periods. However, Section B.2 Contract Line Item Description List, provides for CLIN 0001 through CLIN 0006, for a total of six (6) periods. CLINs 0001 through 0003 are identified as the Base period and CLINs 0004 through 0006 are identified as the Option Period. Section B.2, Note F, Amendment 1, of the RFP, indicates that that proposals will be evaluated based upon October 1, 2000, as the first invoice payment. Section F.2, of the RFP, states..."the period of the contract will encompass seven years (FY2000-FY2006).

Please clarify the following:

1. How should the prospective contractor view the funds and their availability that have been identified for FY2000? Please clarify the apparent difference between seven (7) periods and six (6) periods as noted above.
2. For the schedules in Section J.4, Pricing Tables, what should be considered as Month 1? Should the contractor assume month 1 to be October, 2000? If so, should the tables be constructed to a total of 60 months?

A157 Regarding issue #1, the FY 2000 funds will be obligated in FY 2000 at contract award and will be used to partially fund the base year of the contract (October 2000 - September 2001). For funding purposes, the contract includes four (4) years for the Base Contract and three (3) years for the Option Contract. In actuality, the period of performance is three (3) years for the Base (Contract October 2000-September 2003) and three (3) years for the Option Contract (October 2003 - September 2006)..

Regarding issue #2, October 2000 should be considered month 1. Regarding the pricing tables in Section J.4, the proposal only requires a detailed tracking of pricing for the Base Contract. Therefore, the tables only need to be constructed through month 36, which refers to September 2003. Offerors need not provide detailed pricing tables for the Option Contract Period. For the Contract Option Period, Offerors are required to state in their proposal that their prices will be at or below the dollar thresholds cited in Section B, Notes to Offerors. If proposed prices for the Contract Option Period are below the cited thresholds, the Offeror needs to state by how much below.

Q158 Responded to in previous Amendment.

Q159 Section H.15 states that liquidated damages are to begin December 1, 2000. Based on a contract award of 9/29/00 stated in the GFDL schedule, and the C.4.9.5 requirement to start acceptance testing within 90 days after contract award (nominally 12/30), acceptance testing will not complete earlier than 1/29/01. Does the government intend to maintain the December 1, 2000, date for Start of Liquidated Damages?

A159 The December 1, 2000 date for the start of Liquidated Damages will remain. This enables GFDL to maintain its current computing capability while the new HPSCS is being installed and accepted, and it encourages the Contractor to complete acceptance as soon as possible.

Q160 The effectiveness level stated in E.2.2 (99%) appears to be in conflict with Section C availability level requirements (LSC-96%, AC-96%, HSMS-99.96%, HFS-99.99%). Please Clarify.

A160 The phrase regarding the effectiveness level in RFP Section E.2.2 is removed by this amendment. This Section will read:

E.2.2 PERFORMANCE PERIOD

The performance period shall begin on the installation date (unless delayed in accordance with E.4, "Delay of Start of Performance Period") and shall end when the system has met the standard of performance for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days by operating in conformance with the Contractor's technical specifications and functional descriptions, or as quoted in the Contractor's proposal, which must satisfy the requirements of Section C.

Q161 Are the Princeton University specifications and guidelines for electrical work cited in A86 available?

A161 These documents have been posted at the following website:
http://www.gfdl.gov/conops/documents_for_vendors.html

Q162 Could you provide the dates of the amendments for inclusion on the SF33?

A162 Previous Amendments to Solicitation 52-DDNR-0-90039 were dated as follows:

Amendment 0001 - April 10, 2000
Amendment 0002 - April 27, 2000
Amendment 0003 - May 15, 2000

Q163 It appears in reading the solicitation that the cost volume will be comprised of three (3) separate volumes:

1. SF33 and Reps/Certs
2. Cost/Price Proposal
3. Small Business Plan

Should these be submitted in separate binders or can they go in one binder with each section tabbed accordingly?

A163 The SF33 (3 originals), the representations and certifications, and the Subcontracting Plan may be submitted together in one binder. The cost/price proposal is to be submitted in a separate binder.

Q164 Section C.3.8 mentions GFE - does the contractor have to bid the maintenance of the GFE in its proposal or will the Government continue to maintain this equipment through other contracts?

A164 The last paragraph of RFP Section C.4.5.6 states that "After October 2000, the Contractor will be responsible for maintaining these tape libraries, drives, and the ESCON director while in use." The two GBE interfaces on the GBE backbone will be maintained by the Government.

Q165 Will the Contractor be required to meet the performance levels proposed for the option years in the proposal submitted for consideration at the end of FY2002?

A165 RFP Section C.5 requires "guaranteed increased performance levels" to be offered for the option period. Failure to guarantee these performance levels in the proposal to be submitted at the end of FY2002 (see Section C.2) will be considered by the Government when it decides whether to exercise the option.